

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS (MARKED)**

1 1. (Currently Amended) A composite, metal and plastic pipe assembly,  
2 comprising: first and second metal ~~pipe sections~~ pipes having respective first and second  
3 ends; a first plastic [spigot] cuff formed along the periphery of the first pipe end and  
4 embedding the first pipe end therein; [and] a second plastic [bell] cuff formed along the  
5 periphery of the second pipe end and embedding the second pipe end therein[, ]; the first  
6 cuff forming a spigot member extending around the circumference of the first pipe end and  
7 the second cuff forming a bell member extending around the circumference of the second  
8 pipe end; and the spigot member of the first cuff being inserted into the bell member of the  
9 second cuff, thereby [the first and second cuffs] forming a mating bell and spigot [joint]  
10 coupling around the circumference of the first and second pipe ends [with the first, spigot  
11 cuff inserted into and joined to the second, bell cuff].

1 2. (Currently Amended) Components for a composite metal and plastic pipe  
2 assembly, comprising: first and second [pipe sections] metal pipes having respective first  
3 and second ends; a [first] plastic spigot cuff formed along the [periphery] circumference of  
4 the first pipe end and embedding the first pipe end therein, and a [second] plastic bell cuff  
5 formed along the [periphery] circumference of the second pipe end and embedding the  
6 second pipe end therein, the sizes of the [first and second] bell and spigot cuffs being  
7 adapted for inserting the spigot cuff into the bell cuff forming a [bell and spigot joint]  
8 coupling between the spigot cuff and the bell cuff and between the first metal pipe and the  
9 second metal pipe when the [first,] spigot cuff is inserted into the [second] bell cuff.

1        3.        (New)        The pipe assembly of claim 1, further comprising: a plastic coating  
2        formed on the end of the first pipe; a plastic coating formed on the end of the second pipe;  
3        a first plastic weld joining the first cuff and the end of the first pipe; and a second plastic  
4        weld joining the second cuff and the end of the second pipe

1        4.        (New).        The pipe assembly of claim 1, the first plastic cuff having a metal core  
2        embedded therein and the second plastic cuff having a metal core embedded therein.

1        5.        (New)        A method for adapting first and second pipes for coupling,  
2        comprising: molding a first plastic cuff around the circumference of an end of a first pipe,  
3        with the end of the first pipe embedded in the first plastic cuff and the first plastic cuff  
4        forming a spigot member extending along the circumference of the first pipe end; and  
5        molding a second plastic cuff around the circumference of an end of a second pipe, with  
6        the end of the second pipe embedded in the second plastic cuff and the second plastic cuff  
7        forming a bell member extending along the circumference of the second pipe end.

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS (UNMARKED)**

1        1.        (Currently Amended)        A composite, metal and plastic pipe assembly,  
2        comprising: first and second metal pipes having respective first and second ends; a first  
3        plastic cuff formed along the periphery of the first pipe end and embedding the first pipe  
4        end therein; a second plastic cuff formed along the periphery of the second pipe end and  
5        embedding the second pipe end therein; the first cuff forming a spigot member extending  
6        around the circumference of the first pipe end and the second cuff forming a bell member  
7        extending around the circumference of the second pipe end; and the spigot member of the  
8        first cuff being inserted into the bell member of the second cuff, thereby forming a mating  
9        bell and spigot coupling around the circumference of the first and second pipe ends.

1        2.        (Currently Amended)        Components for a composite metal and plastic pipe  
2        assembly, comprising: first and second metal pipes having respective first and second ends;  
3        a plastic spigot cuff formed along the circumference of the first pipe end and embedding  
4        the first pipe end therein, and a plastic bell cuff formed along the circumference of the  
5        second pipe end and embedding the second pipe end therein, the sizes of the bell and spigot  
6        cuffs being adapted for inserting the spigot cuff into the bell cuff forming a coupling  
7        between the spigot cuff and the bell cuff and between the first metal pipe and the second  
8        metal pipe when the spigot cuff is inserted into the bell cuff.

1        3.        (New)        The pipe assembly of claim 1, further comprising: a plastic coating  
2        formed on the end of the first pipe; a plastic coating formed on the end of the second pipe;  
3        a first plastic weld joining the first cuff and the end of the first pipe; and a second plastic  
4        weld joining the second cuff and the end of the second pipe

1        4.     (New).        The pipe assembly of claim 1, the first plastic cuff having a metal core  
2        embedded therein and the second plastic cuff having a metal core embedded therein.

1        5.     (New)        A method for adapting first and second pipes for coupling,  
2        comprising: molding a first plastic cuff around the circumference of an end of a first pipe,  
3        with the end of the first pipe embedded in the first plastic cuff and the first plastic cuff  
4        forming a spigot member extending along the circumference of the first pipe end; and  
5        molding a second plastic cuff around the circumference of an end of a second pipe, with  
6        the end of the second pipe embedded in the second plastic cuff and the second plastic cuff  
7        forming a bell member extending along the circumference of the second pipe end.